

CODOC
NR6
.2
/R24.
/1992ad
C.3

ADDENDUM
PLAINS SHARP-TAILED GROUSE RECOVERY PLAN
January 1994



Colorado Division of Wildlife
RESEARCH CENTER LIBRARY
317 West Prospect Rd.
Fort Collins, CO 80526
USA

ADMIN RECORD

SW-A-005574

CODOC

NR6

Addendum. Plains

.2 C³

sharp-tailed grouse

/R24

recovery plan

/1992ad

LIBRARY
COLO. DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
6060 BROADWAY
DENVER, CO 80216

DEMCO

006934

ADDENDUM

PLAINS SHARP-TAILED GROUSE RECOVERY PLAN

January 1994

This is an addendum to the Colorado recovery plan for plains sharp-tailed grouse (dated May 1992, approved in November 1992). Due to changes in site availability, the Colorado Division of Wildlife has reassessed priorities for enhancement and reintroduction of plains sharp-tailed grouse. Changes in site availability include: (1) Rocky Flats-Boulder Open Space is not available as a reintroduction site because of environmental cleanup activities; (2) Fort Carson is not available as a reintroduction site because of potential training needs of the U.S. Army; and (3) further subdivision activity near the Woodhouse State Wildlife Area in Douglas County makes enhancement of the existing plains sharp-tailed grouse population at that site problematic.

All potential sites listed in the May 1992 recovery plan (pg 19, 1.2; pg 23, 3.3) were reconsidered. It is recommended that reintroduction efforts be focused in the Livermore-Phantom Canyon Area in the Northeast Region and Raton Mesa in the Southeast Region, with further investigations of enhancement possibilities near existing active leks (Woodhouse, Dakin) in Douglas County in the Central Region. Further, it is recommended that (1) habitat management (including livestock grazing management, food planting) is essential prior to and in conjunction with reintroduction efforts, (2) proper protocol (attached) be followed (including use of radio-marked birds, daily relocations, habitat use measurements, and subsequent followups) for any reintroduction, and (3) allocation of sufficient resources (estimated at \$25,000/yr) be made for proper reintroduction efforts and subsequent followup. Protocols to be

followed on all planned reintroduction efforts and subsequent followup are attached to this Addendum.

Prepared by Recovery Plan Team Members

Clait E. Braun	-	Terrestrial Wildlife Resources
Robert B. Davies	-	Southeast Region
James R. Dennis	-	Northeast Region
Katherine A. Green	-	Central Region
Judy L. Sheppard	-	Terrestrial Wildlife Resources

18 January 1994

Reintroductions of Prairie Grouse

Protocol

This protocol is based on experience gained from successful transplants of greater prairie-chickens into and within Colorado. It represents our best collective knowledge at the current time.

Guidelines - Recommendations

Pre-release Site Evaluation

Capture/Release Timing

Birds/Release

Releases/Site

Release Distribution

Age/Sex Composition

Post-release Monitoring

Pre-release Site Evaluation

Lek Searches

Residual HDI (Height/Density Index)

Grasses/Forbs

Shrubs/Half shrubs

Height (\bar{x})

Line Intercept

Grass-Forb-Shrub

Size of Area

10-20 mi² (6,400-12,800 acres)

Distance to Agricultural (Grain) Crops

Capture/Release Timing

Spring (Prior to Breeding)

On Day of Capture (Preferred)

Birds/Release

40-50

Releases/Site

One/Year

Two Successive Years

Release Distribution

First Year - Best Appearing Habitat - All Birds/One Site

Second Year - Near Established Leks

Age/Sex Composition

Age - Preferred 50:50 Adults:Yearlings

Sex - 50:50 Males:Females

Post-release Monitoring (Years 1 & 2)

Miniature Radio Transmitters

50:50 Males:Females, Total 10-12 Individuals

Radiotracking (3 locations/bird/week for 6 months, once/week thereafter)

Lek Formation/Location

Nest Location/Success

Spring-Summer-Fall Movements

Habitats Used

Reports

Post-release Monitoring (Years 3 + 1)

Lek Searches/Counts

Reports